

In the Specification

Please rewrite the Section Heading on page 2, line 15 as follows:

~~Disclosure~~ Summary of the Invention

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 2, lines 20-22 as follows:

According to the present invention, ~~there are provided the following a porous material;~~ is provided, as well as a method for production thereof, and a honeycomb structure.

Please rewrite the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 as follows:

[H] ~~A~~ According to a first aspect of the present invention, a porous material is provided, wherein silicon carbide particles as an aggregate are bonded with one another via silicon nitride as a binder in such a state that pores are present between the silicon carbide particles, wherein

no columnar silicon nitride (silicon nitride whisker) is formed on the surface of the silicon nitride within each pore, or that,

even when columnar silicon nitride is inevitably formed there, the number of the columnar silicon nitride having a thickness of more than 2 μm and an aspect ratio of less than 10 is greater than that of the columnar silicon nitride having a thickness of 2 μm or less or an aspect ratio of 10 or more (hereinafter, this invention may be referred to as “first invention”).

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 3, lines 7-12 as follows:

[2] ~~A~~ According to a second aspect of the present invention, a porous material is provided, wherein silicon carbide particles as an aggregate are bonded with one another via silicon nitride as a binder in such a state that pores are present between the silicon carbide particles, wherein the pores have a specific surface area of 1 m^2/g or less (hereinafter, this invention may be referred to as “second invention”).

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 3, lines 13-14 as follows:

[3] ~~A~~ According to a third aspect of the present invention, a porous material according to [1] the first or [2] second aspects is provided, wherein an open porosity is 40 to 75%.

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 3, lines 15-17 as follows:

[4] ~~A~~ According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, a porous material according to any of [1] or [3] the first through third aspects is provided, wherein the pores have an average pore diameter of 5 to 50 μm .

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 3, lines 18-19 as follows:

[5] ~~A~~ According to a fifth aspect of the present invention, a porous material according to any of [1] to [4] the preceeding four aspects is provided, which has a heat resistance temperature of 1,200°C or more.

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 3, lines 20-21 as follows:

[6] ~~A~~ According to a sixth aspect of the present invention, a porous material according to any of [1] to [5] the preceeding five aspects is provided, which has a gas permeability coefficient of 1 μm^2 or more.

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 3, lines 22-24 as follows:

[7] ~~A~~ According to a seventh aspect of the present invention, a method for producing a porous material set forth in any of [1] to [6] the preceeding six aspects is provided, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 4, lines 3-10 as follows:

[8] ~~A~~ According to an eighth aspect of the present invention, a method for producing a porous material according to [7] the seventh aspect is provided, wherein,

after preparing the silicon-silicon carbide porous material, the atmosphere used therein is changed to a nitrogen atmosphere without lowering the temperature to room temperature and keeping the temperature at 1,200°C or more, and nitriding and firing the silicon nitride-silicon carbide porous material at 1,200 to 1,800°C in the nitrogen atmosphere is conducted.

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 4, lines 11-16 as follows:

{9} A According to a ninth aspect of the present invention, a method for producing a porous material according to {7} the seventh aspect is provided, wherein, after preparing the silicon-silicon carbide porous material, nitriding and firing the silicon-silicon carbide porous material at 1,200 to 1,800°C is conducted in a nitrogen atmosphere containing 0.1% by volume or more of hydrogen.

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 4, lines 17-25 as follows:

{10} A According to a tenth aspect of the present invention, a method for producing a porous material according to {7} the seventh aspect is provided, wherein, after the preparation of the silicon-silicon carbide porous material, the atmosphere is changed to a nitrogen atmosphere containing 0.1% by volume or more of hydrogen (a hydrogen-containing nitrogen atmosphere) without lowering the temperature to room temperature and keeping the temperature at 1,200°C or more, and nitriding and firing the silicon-silicon carbide porous material at 1,200 to 1,800°C in the hydrogen-containing nitrogen atmosphere is conducted.

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 4, lines 26-27 as follows:

{11} A According to the eleventh aspect of the present invention, a honeycomb structure constituted by a porous material set forth in any of {1} to {6} the first through sixth aspects is provided.

Please rewrite the Section Heading on page 5, line 3 as follows:

~~Best Mode for Carrying Out Detailed Description of the Invention~~

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 5, lines 4-6 as follows:

First, ~~a description is made on~~ of the first invention is provided. Fig. 1 is a partly enlarged sectional view showing an embodiment of the porous material of the present invention.

Please rewrite the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 as follows:

As shown in Fig. 1, in the porous material 1 of the present embodiment, silicon carbide (SiC) particles 2 as an aggregate are bonded with one another via silicon nitride (Si_3N_4) 3 as a binder in such a state that pores 5 are present between the silicon carbide particles 2. As shown in Fig. 1, it is particularly preferred that there is present, on the surface of the silicon nitride 3 within each pore 5, no columnar silicon nitride (hereinafter, this may be referred to as silicon nitride whisker) having a thickness of smaller than $2\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and an aspect ratio of larger than 10. Thus, no silicon nitride whisker is present in each pore 5 and, even when silicon nitride whiskers are inevitably present there, the number of the columnar silicon nitride having a thickness of more than $2\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and an aspect ratio of less than 10 is greater than that of the columnar silicon nitride having a thickness of $2\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ or less or an aspect ratio of 10 or more; therefore, it does ~~not~~ not happen that part of the pores are blocked by silicon nitride whiskers, and the porous material of the present embodiment is superior in gas permeability. That is, in the porous material of the present embodiment, it can be said that substantially no silicon nitride whisker is present, from the standpoint of gas permeability. This feature appears strikingly when there is present no columnar silicon nitride. Further, in the porous material 1, silicon carbide particles 2 as an aggregate are bonded with one another via silicon nitride 3 as a binder; therefore, the porous material 1 is superior in heat resistance.

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 11, lines 10-22 as follows:

Next, the obtained raw material for firing ~~obtained~~ (this may be a formed material obtained by kneading the raw material for firing to prepare clay for forming, and forming the clay into an intended shape by extrusion or the like) is fired in an inert gas or reduced pressure atmosphere wherein the oxygen partial pressure is 10 Pa or less, to prepare a silicon-silicon carbide porous material. Here, the silicon-silicon carbide porous material is a porous material wherein silicon carbide particles as an aggregate are bonded with one another via silicon as a binder in such a state that pores are present between the silicon carbide particles. The temperature of the firing is preferably 1,400 to 1,500°C. As the inert gas, argon is preferred.